

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. The informalities in claims 1, 15, 19 and 20 that were noted in the Final Office Action have been corrected. Further, claims 1, 10 and 16 have been amended to specifically address the comments in the Advisory Action.

As explained in the previous amendment, filed June 22, 2005, the present claims are patentable over Santos et al., US Patent 6,684,247, because Santos fails to teach a scheme wherein packet round trip times are organized as an invariant distribution or plots are derived from such a distribution.

The Advisory Action stats that because RTT values are measured in time a plot of the occurrence of different RTT values is also a distribution in time. This is incorrect. As is shown in Figure 5 of the present application, although RTT values are themselves measured in time (msec in the example shown in Fig. 5), a plot of the distribution of RTT values is unitless. That is, the plot is of the number of occurrences of a particular RTT value across various measured values of RTT. See also, paragraph 53 of the specification describing a histogram, which is a plot of the distribution of numbers of occurrences of RTT values.

The claims have been amended to more clearly recite the above-mentioned features. Consequently, the claims should be even more clearly distinguished from Santos, which describes a system for identifying congestion within a network in which values of network metrics are measured and used to create a model. This model is then used to estimate the state of the network. See Santos, Abstract, and col. 2, ll. 5 – 58. Importantly, during this process the measured values of the network metrics are arranged as a time series. See, e.g., Santos Figs. 6 and 8. These time series representations of the measured metric values are then used to create the model. See, e.g., Santos at Fig. 3 and col. 5, l. 13 – col. 6, l. 13.

In contrast, the present claims (1, 10 and 16) recite organizing numbers of occurrences of packet round trip time measurements as an invariant distribution or deriving plots from such a distribution. A distribution of this type is not a time series (see, e.g., Specification at ¶ 46, “this invariant distribution is also termed a histogram”). The same cannot be said for a time series of measurements which inherently includes information regarding the sequence in which measurements were made. Thus, while in some respects one could fashion an invariant time series of data (e.g., one which has regular periodicity), this would not be equivalent to an invariant distribution as recited in the present claims.

To anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628,

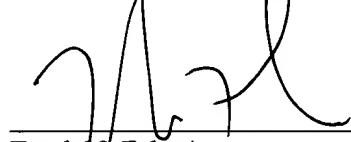
631, USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Here, it has been shown that Santos fails to teach a scheme wherein numbers of occurrences of packet round trip times are organized as an invariant distribution or plots are derived from such a distribution. Hence, claims 1, 10 and 16 are patentable over Santos. All of the remaining claims depend from these independent claims and are therefore likewise patentable over this reference.

Claims 7 – 9, 13, 17 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of Santos when considered in combination with Wilson, US 2001-0032269. Like Santos, however, Wilson fails to teach or suggest organizing packet round trip time measurements as an invariant distribution or deriving plots therefrom. Instead, at best, Wilson teaches only that the average and standard deviation of Round Trip Time (RTT) was measured using the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) recommended algorithm. Consequently, even if Wilson can fairly be described as discussing the use of a TCP host to keep track of sent data packets, etc. as asserted in the Office Action, such a teaching when combined with Santos would still not yield the present invention. In particular, one of ordinary skill in the art would still be presented with Santos' use of time series organizations of data and not the invariant distributions of the present invention. Because of these significant differences between the present invention and the combined teachings of the cited references then, the present claims are patentable over the combination of Santos and Wilson.

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Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP



Tarek N. Fahmi
Reg. No. 41,402

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12400 Wilshire Blvd.
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 947-8200